**Expansion Plan for Khetri Copper Complex in Rajasthan**

*178. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for expansion of Khetri Copper Complex in Raasthan;

(b) whether existing capacities of the smelter and refinery are also being expanded; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Hindustain Copper Limited have drawn up plans for expansion of mining and smelting capacity of copper at the Khetri Copper Complex in Rajasthan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The important schemes proposed to be implemented by Hindustan Copper Limited in the Khetri Copper Complex are:-

| | Targetted completion date (Tentative) |
|---|---|
| (i) Kolihan mine expansion from 0.6 to 07.5 milliton tonnes ore per year | 1993 |
| (ii) Khetri smelter and refinery expansion from 31,000 tonnes to 45,000 tonnes per vear. | 1995 |
| (iii) Development of Banwas mine of 0.6 million tonnes per annum ore | 1998 |

**Annual contribution to the DRF**

*179. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present amount of annual contribution to the Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF); and

(b) what are the recommenatidons mae by the Railway Reforms Committee in the matter of DRF?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The amount appropriated to DRF in the Budget Estimate 1991-92 is Rs. 2,000 crores.

(b) The Railway Reforms Committee had, *inter-alia*, recommended that the appropriation to DRF in 1983-84 should be made at the level of Rs. 1,110 crores, including Rs. 260 crores for arrears. The amount of Rs. 1,110 crores should be updated every year to provide for price variation and new assets. Also, the withrawal from DRF should depend upon requirements of physical replacements and availability of material.

**Prices of Vegetables**

*180. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICUTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of vegetables in Delhi are almost 50 per cent higher at present as compared to last year's prices during the same period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what specific steps Government propose to take to bring down their prices in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In order to keep prices of vegetables under check, Delhi Adminstration from time to time have been making efforts to persuade the wholesalers of vegetables and the nominated agencies like NAFED, Super Bazar, Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation to keep bulk stock of onions and potatoes so that prices would not escalate due to short supply to these items. Delhi Administration is making vegetables available to the consumers in capital through static outlets and mobile vans. Mother Dairy is also selling vegetables at reasonable prices through 166 outlets.

**Volcano Eruption in Andamans**

@691. SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a volcano lying dormat for over 200 years erupted recently in Andamans;

(b) if so, whether any scientific study of the volcano has been made by Government; and

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A team of scientist from Geological Survey of India (GSI), Department of Ocean Development and local voluntary organisations are studying the volcanic eruption in Barren Island in Andaman Nicobar group of Islands. The studies so far carired out have revealed that red hot lava with thick smoke, ash and dust is ejecting from a parastic vent located on the north-eastern face of the central volcanic cone on the Barren Island of Andaman & Nicobar group of Islands. A large spatter cone has developed at the mouth of the eruption and the lava front has already reached the landing site near the north-western corner of the Island. Lava is cascading into the sea and the sea water there was found profusely boiling. Lava an ashes from the recent eruption have been studied and the erupted rocks have been identified as baseltic andesite.

**Mica Production in Bihar**

@@692. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Wil the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the production of mica in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) what was the strength of mica workers in the registered mines during this period; and

(c) what are the reasons for the downward tendency in production of mica and what steps are being taken| contemplated to boost it up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENNENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The production of mica and strength of workers in mica mines during the

@Previously Unstarred Question 122 transferred from 29th August, 1991.

@@ Previously Unstarred Question 301, transferred from 3rd September, 1991.